

01 - Introduction to Computing using R

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Why R

- R offers a powerful and appealing interactive environment for exploring data, running simulations, etc.
- R is platform independent meaning it is available on Windows, Mac, and Linux.
- R has excellent resources both online (just google any issue/question) and using `help(...)`, e.g. `help(lm)`.
- R is not a black box software, i.e., you can trace how a function or package works by following the `{R}` script, e.g. `lm()`

R as a calculator

```
# create an integer sequence
```

```
3:7
```

```
# [1] 3 4 5 6 7
```

```
# create an sequence from 0 to 3 with 0.5 increment
```

```
seq(0, 3, by=0.5)
```

```
# [1] 0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0
```

```
# create a repeated sequence
```

```
rep(pi, 4)
```

```
# [1] 3.141593 3.141593 3.141593 3.141593
```

```
# Basic Operations
```

```
(2 - 3)*( 3 / 4)
```

Concatenate operator

```
c(6, 20, -3) # numbers
```

```
# [1] 6 20 -3
```

```
c(log(100), log10(100))
```

```
# [1] 4.60517 2.00000
```

```
c("words", "are", "wind") # strings
```

```
# [1] "words" "are" "wind"
```

Variable assignment, common operator

```
a <- 3  
# is the same as  
a -> x  
# and x = 3  
b <- 1:3; c <- 2:4  
a + b # scalar multiplication
```

```
# [1] 4 5 6
```

```
b * c # entrywise multiplication
```

```
# [1] 2 6 12
```

Matrices

```
# store the vector (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)  
# into a 2x4 matrix named A  
# nrow = # of rows, ncol = # of columns  
A <- matrix(c(1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8), nrow = 2, ncol = 4)  
colnames(A) <- c('C1', 'C2', 'C3', 'C4')  
A
```

```
#      C1 C2 C3 C4  
# [1,]  1  3  5  7  
# [2,]  2  4  6  8
```

```
B <- matrix(1:8, nrow = 2, ncol = 4, byrow = TRUE) # 1:8 is  
B
```

```
#      [,1] [,2] [,3] [,4]  
# [1,]    1    2    3    4  
# [2,]    5    6    7    8
```

Extracting matrix entries

```
A[1, 3]    # row 1, col 3 entry
```

```
# C3  
# 5
```

```
A[1, 1:3]  # row 1, col 1 to 3
```

```
# C1 C2 C3  
# 1 3 5
```

```
A[1, ]     # row 1
```

```
# C1 C2 C3 C4  
# 1 3 5 7
```

```
A[ , 3]    # col 3
```

Data Frames

Data frames are similar in concept to Excel spreadsheet where each column represents a variable or measurement and each row represents an observational unit.

We can check the structure of the data frame using the function `str()`. The output includes data information such as

- dimension (number of observations and variables),
- variable names
- data type
 - `logi`: logical, TRUE or FALSE
 - `int`: integer
 - `num`: numerical
 - `chr`: character
 - `Factor`: Factors are how R keeps track of categorical variables.

Use data.frame():

```
stark.kids <- data.frame(  
  Name = c("Jon", "Sansa", "Arya", "Bran"),  
  Age = c(24, 20, 18, 17)  
)  
str(stark.kids)
```

```
# 'data.frame': 4 obs. of 2 variables:  
# $ Name: Factor w/ 4 levels "Arya","Bran",...: 3 4 1 2  
# $ Age : num 24 20 18 17
```

```
stark.kids
```

```
#   Name Age  
# 1   Jon  24  
# 2 Sansa  20  
# 3  Arya  18  
# 4  Bran  17
```

Variable names

We can also use the names of variables in a data frame to access the variable using the notation `data$name`.

```
stark.kids$Name
```

```
# [1] Jon   Sansa Arya  Bran  
# Levels: Arya Bran Jon Sansa
```

```
mean(stark.kids$Age) # average age
```

```
# [1] 19.75
```

```
head(stark.kids, 2) # display first 2 rows
```

```
#      Name Age  
# 1     Jon  24  
# 2  Sansa  20
```

Reading data in R: Example 1.6 Lizard Size Data

Data analysis using R often involves importing or reading data.

```
# File "T1-3.dat" should be in your working directory  
# Specify the working directory  
# Session > Set Working Directory > Choose Directory  
lizard <- read.table("T1-3.dat")  
# assign names to the column variables  
colnames(lizard) <- c("mass", "svl", "hls")  
head(lizard, 3) # display first 3 rows
```

```
#      mass svl  hls  
# 1  5.526  59 113.5  
# 2 10.401  75 142.0  
# 3  9.213  69 124.0
```

Reading CSV data in R

Goind Wireless data reported the estimated percentage of households with only wireless phone service (no land line) for the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

The URL of the data set Going Wireless that we need to read the data is (<https://goo.gl/72BKSf>).

```
wireless.data <- read.csv("https://goo.gl/72BKSf",  
                           header = TRUE)  
str(wireless.data) # check structure
```

```
# 'data.frame': 51 obs. of 3 variables:  
# $ Wireless: num 13.9 11.7 18.9 22.6 9 16.7 5.6 5.7 20 1  
# $ Region : Factor w/ 3 levels "E","M","W": 2 3 3 2 3 3  
# $ State : Factor w/ 51 levels "AK","AL","AR",...: 2 1 4
```

Simple data summaries

```
height <- 58:72  
weight <- c(115,117,120,123,126,129,132,135,139,  
            142,146,150,154,159,164)  
mean(height) # mean of height
```

```
# [1] 65
```

```
var(height) # variance of height
```

```
# [1] 20
```

```
length(height)
```

```
# [1] 15
```

```
cor(height, weight) # correlation
```

Writing Functions in R

```
function.name <- function(arglist){  
  expr  
}
```

```
my_fun <- function( x, y ){  
  x + y  
}  
my_fun(1,2)
```

```
# [1] 3
```

```
my_fun2 <- function(x, y) x*y  
my_fun2(10, 23)
```

```
# [1] 230
```

No need braces for one-liner functions.

apply() function

Applies a function to sections of an array (or matrix) and returns the results in an array (or matrix).

```
# create a matrix of twenty rows, two columns  
dat <- cbind(rbinom(n = 20, size = 5, prob = 0.3),  
             rnorm(n = 20))  
head(dat, 3)
```

```
#      [,1]      [,2]  
# [1,]     1  1.1689910  
# [2,]     2 -0.8387412  
# [3,]     3  0.1588101
```

```
apply(dat, MARGIN = 2, var) # apply variance to columns
```

```
# [1] 1.0947368 0.7475412
```

Conditionals

```
if (arglist is satisfied) {  
    do this  
} else {  
    do this instead  
}
```

```
my_cond <- function( x ){  
    # function that tells whether a value is > 20.  
    if (x > 20) {  
        print("x is greater than 20")  
    } else {  
        print("x is less than 20")  
    }  
}  
my_cond(10)
```

```
# [1] "x is less than 20"
```


Loops in R

For loops iterate through each item in a vector or a list:

```
for (x in vector) {  
  do this  
}
```

The colon creates a vector, passing each integer from 0 to 4 to the loop.

```
for (x in 0:4) print(x)
```

```
# [1] 0  
# [1] 1  
# [1] 2  
# [1] 3  
# [1] 4
```

Two more loops in R are `repeat()` and `while()`. Search this!

Packages in R! Treasure troves of goodies

- An R package is a set of related functions and help files, bundled together.
- Normally, all functions within a single package are related: for example, the `stats` package contains functions for statistical analysis.
- There are few public repositories of packages: the largest is CRAN hosted by the R foundation with more than 4000 freely packages.
- To use a package, you first need to install it into R.
- Among other ways, you can also install R packages directly through R console using `install.packages()`.
- To load up an R package, use the `library()`.

Learn More

1. An Introduction to R by WN Venables
2. Using R Markdown for Class Reports
3. Quick R website
4. Online learning by RStudio
5. R for Data Science by H Wickham
6. Just google it!